

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IGA-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MMO-01 USIE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 /059 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EESVENDSEN:MN
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
DOD/ISA:JREED
L/PM:TABOREK
AF/I:USTRAUSS (SUBS)
-----090108Z 004204 /63
O 090035Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, LI

SUBJECT: US MILITARY MISSION TO LIBERIA

REF: MONROVIA 2369

, QUOTE CONTAINED IN PARA 1 OF REFTL IS FROM STATEMENT
MADE BY DAS SEELYE ON MARCH 29 TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AFRICA OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
A COPY OF THE STATEMENT WAS POUCHED TO EMBASSY ON APRIL 6.

2. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, CURRENT LEGISLATION CALLS FOR
THE TERMINATION OF ALL MAAG'S WORLDWIDE BY THE END OF THIS
FISCAL YEAR UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW. ON
MARCH 28, DRAFT LEGISLATION WAS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS
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REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO ASSIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO 25
NAMED COUNTRIES (INCLUDING LIBERIA) TO PERFORM SECURITY
ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1977
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1980. IF ENACTED, LIBMISH WOULD
BE ABLE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS FOR AT LEAST THREE ADDI-
TIONAL YEARS. ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION WOULD HAVE TO
BE OBTAINED FOR THEIR OPERATION AFTER THAT DATE.

3. OUR JUSTIFICATION FOR LIBERIA IS BASED LARGELY ON OUR DESIRE TO CARRY OUT EXISTING COMMITMENTS AND TO ALLOW FOR AN ORDERLY PHASE-OUT OF US ADVISORY PERSONNEL FROM CIVIC ACTION AND OTHER PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS. THE PHASE-OUT OF A SEPARATE MILITARY MISSION, WHENEVER IT MIGHT TAKE PLACE, DOES NOT NECESSARILY PRECLUDE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECTION WITHIN THE EMBASSY TO CARRY OUT FUTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA.

4. IN MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER GREAVES, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM HIM THAT THE USG HAS EVERY INTENTION OF LIVING UP TO ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EXISTING AGREEMENT, AND HAS IN FACT INCLUDED LIBERIA AND A GROUP OF OTHER COUNTRIES SINGLED OUT FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH LIBMISH IS ESTABLISHED HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JANUARY 11, 1981, IMPLYING THAT LIBMISH WOULD REMAIN AT LEAST UNTIL THAT DATE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SHOULD ALSO EXPLAIN THAT GIVEN EXISTING LEGISLATION, IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF LIBMISH INDEFINITELY. STATEMENT OF THIS FACT, OF COURSE, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT. ANY REDUCTIONS IN LIBMISH PERSONNEL SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A LACK OF US COMMITMENT TO ASSISTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND UPGRADING OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA, NOR AS A LESSENING OF OUR OVERALL INTEREST IN LIBERIA.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ATTACHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE080011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EESVENDSEN:MN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-1051
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770471/aaaackbw.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dd5cbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONROVIA 2369
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2850220
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US MILITARY MISSION TO LIBERIA
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PDIP, LI, US
To: MONROVIA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dd5cbca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009